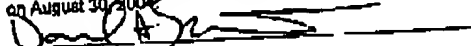


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Registration No.: 45,383

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:	Rice et al.	Group No.:	1648
Serial No.:	09/576,989	Atty. Docket No.:	56029-4356
Filed:	05/23/2000		
For:	HCV Variants	Examiner:	Wentman, Donna C.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

HONORABLE SIR:

Responsive to the official communication of March 30, 2004, Applicant submits the following Amendments and Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this Response. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. § 1.138(a), and any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account 20-0823.

Please enter the following amendments and remarks:

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